a medical ward of 120 beds has reached the second floor level. The construction of kitchen block has just been started. Other works have not yet been taken up.

" (b) The number of beds available in the new buildings will be 198.

" (c) Rs. 16·8 lakhs."

SRI M. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" When the new building is completed will the Government consider the desirability of increasing the bed strength in the T.B. Ward? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" A separate T.B. Sanatorium is being put up at Mudisetti in Mangalore."

Construction of the Palar Bridge.

* 335 Q.—SRI A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) when the proposal for the construction of the Palar Bridge on the trunk road from Chingleput to Madurantakam was sanctioned by the Government and at what estimated cost;

(b) who the contractors are;

(c) the amount disbursed to them so far; and

(d) at what stage the construction of the bridge stands at present?

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" (a) In June 1950 at an estimated cost of Rs. 19 lakhs.

(b) The Associated Engineering Syndicate.

(c) Rs. 12,42,566 till 17th February 1954.

(d) The foundation wells for 8 piers out of 22 have been sunk to different levels and are to be finalised. The rest of the piers and abutments have been completed. Decking has been completed for 6 spans out of 23 and is in progress for 2 spans. The works on approach roads are also in progress. The entire work is likely to be completed in October 1954."

SRI A. RATNAM :—" இத்தனை ஆண்டுகள் பாலம் கட்டப்படாமல் இருந்ததின் காரணம் என்ன? உண்மையில் பாலாற்றில் வெள்ளம் வந்தால் பல கால்நடைகளும் பொதுமக்களும் கஷ்டப்படவேண்டிய நிலைமை ஏற்பட்டு வந்திருக்கிறதே. இதற்குச் சர்க்கார் என்ன சமாதானம் சொல்லுகிறார்கள் என்று நான் கேட்கிறேன்? "

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" The reasons for not taking up the bridge beforehand cannot be given now. I do not have the reasons with me now. We are now constructing the bridge and as such I think no useful purpose could be served by going into the reasons as to why this work was not taken up for execution before. The necessity for the bridge has been felt. That is why the bridge is now being constructed."

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SRI S. C. C. ANTHONY PILLAI :—" May I know from the Hon. Minister when the tender was accepted and from which concern? Is it after the concerned Minister had been defeated at the polls? "

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" The work commenced on 19th April 1951."

SRI S. C. C. ANTHONY PILLAI :—" I want to know on what date the tender was accepted? "

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" I have not got the dates with me."

MR. SPEAKER :—" The Hon. Minister may then say that he wants notice."

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" I want notice, Sir."

SRI S. S. KOLKEBAIL :—" The Hon. Minister in his reply stated that he did not want to give the reasons for the project not having been taken up before. May I know what are those reasons? Is it in public interest or some other interest that the Hon. Minister does not want to give the reasons? "

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" There is nothing in it, Sir. I have not got the reasons with me now. Moreover the work has started now and is in progress. That is why I said there would be no use in going into the reasons for the bridge not having been taken up beforehand. If the hon. Member wants to know the specific reasons for the project not having been taken up earlier, let him put a separate question. I shall furnish him with the reasons for the delay in starting the work."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" What is the original estimated cost of the bridge? Is the Hon. Minister aware of the fact that the estimate had been revised four times before the actual construction of this bridge began? "

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" I do not know whether the revision of estimates had taken place four times. This much I can say and that is, that the original estimate was Rs. 16,80,729. Subsequently the estimate had been revised to Rs. 25 lakhs. We have got the approval of the Government of India. They have sanctioned the scheme, for it is they who have the authority to sanction it."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" Inasmuch as we very rarely get floods in Palar and for the last forty years there had been no floods in Palar, may I know why this bridge had been taken up for execution? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member is contradicting what the hon. Member Mr. Ratnam just now said."

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SRI S. DEIVASIGAMANY :—" Palar is famous for its milky white sands and not for its water. When that is the fact and for the last forty years or so we have had no floods there and the people living there also were feeling comfortable without the bridge, what is the special reason that induced Government to start the construction of this bridge? "

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" The bridge has been started somehow or other. But now the hon. Member says that there is no necessity for such a bridge. I would request him to suggest a solution now." (Laughter.)

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" My question has not been answered, Sir. I want to know from the Hon. Minister for Public Works whether there had been revision of estimates four times before the starting of work on the bridge. The Hon. Minister has not answered me."

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" I do not have the figures readily available with me now. I have given the figures which I had on my hand, namely, the figures for the original estimate and the revised estimate of the project. That is why I stated that I do not have all the figures and as such, I could not say whether there had been revision of estimates four times or not. But if the hon. Member wants specific information I will readily furnish him with the requisite information if he puts a separate question."

SRI S. JAYARAMA REDDIYAR :—" இந்தப் பாலம் சாதாரணமாகக் கட்டப்படும் முறையில் கட்டப்படாமல் புது முறையில் கட்டப்படப்போவதாகவும், அதனுலேயே எஸ்டிமேட்டில் ரிவிஷன் ஏற்பட்டதாகவும், இந்த மாதிரியான பாலத்தைக் கட்டுவதற்கு இந்த ராஜ்யத்தில் ஒரு கண்டிராக்டரைத்தவிர வேறு யாருமே கிடையாது என்றும் சொல்லப்படுவது எல்லாம் உண்மையா ? இதற்கு முன்பு மராமத்து இலாகா மந்திரியாக இருந்தவரும் இந்தச் சபையில் இருக்கிறுர். அவருக்கு இதுவிஷயம் எல்லாம் தெரியுமாதலால் இந்த விஷயத்தையும் எடுத்துச் சொல்வார்களா என்று நான் கேட்கிறேன் ? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" I do not know whether it is parliamentary for the previous Hon. Minister for Public Works who is now the Hon. Minister for Agriculture to answer the question. Anyhow, if the Hon. Minister is prepared to answer, I have no objection."

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I would like to have notice, Sir." (Laughter.)

Visit of Hon. the Chief Minister to Salem.

* 336 *Q.*—SRI M. KALYANASUNDRAM : Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state whether his visit to Salem during October 1953 was official or non-official? 10-30 a.m.

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM (on behalf of the Hon. Chief Minister) :—" The visit was treated as an official visit."